

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 10061 101251Z

46

ACTION EA-14

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2156

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

/CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJ: PROVINCIAL MASS RALLIES ATTACK LIN PIAO'S MILITARY  
REPUTATION

REF: A. HONG KONG 9880; B. PEKING 1548; C. PEKING 1518

SUMMARY. THE NEW ATTACK ON LIN PIAO'S MILITARY REPUTATION SEEMS  
TO BE PICKIN UP STEAM WITH THE HOLDING OF LARGE MASS RALLIES IN  
WUHAN, CHENG TU, AND CANTON. THIS IS FIRST INSTANCE OF SUCH  
MASS AGITATION SINCE THE MOVEMENT WAS BRAKED AT MID-YEAR. AN  
INTERESTING FEATURE OF THE CANTON RALLY WAS ITS ATTACK ON THOSE  
WHO CHALLENGE MAO AS THE MILITARY'S COMMANDER. END SUMMARY

1. THE FIRST PUBLICLY REPORTED PROVINCIAL MASS RALLIES IN  
NEARLY TWO MONTHS TOOK PLACE IN WUHAN AND CHENG TU (SEPTEMBER 6)  
AND CANTON (SEPTEMBER 7), ACCORDING TO RADIO BROADCASTS. BY  
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PAGE 02 HONG K 10061 101251Z

OUR RECORDS, THE LAST MASS RALLY TO CRITICIZE LIN PIAO AND

CONFUCIUS TOOK PLACE JULY 8 IN SHANGHAI. IT INVOLVED 200,000 PEOPLE AND WAS BILLED IN A SHANGHAI BROADCAST AS THE LARGEST OF ITS KIND TO DATE. THE PURPOSE OF THE CHENG TU AND CANTON RALLIES WAS APPARENTLY SOLELY TO CRITICIZE LIN PIAO'S MILITARY REPUTATION AND LINE, IN KEEPING WITH THE MOVEMENT'S NEW TACK BEGUN IN AUGUST (REFTELS). THE WUHAN RALLY WAS TO EXCHANGE EXPERIENCES ON CRITICISM OF LIN PIAO AND CONFUCIUS AND ON GRASPING REVOLUTION AND PROMOTING PRODUCTION -- MORE TRADITIONAL CAMPAIGN THEMES.

2. THE WUHAN RALLY, SPONSORED BY THE PROVINCIAL CCP, MATCHED SHANGHAI'S "RECORD" 200,000 ATTENDANCE FIGURE. IN CHENG TU, THE RALLY, CONVENED BY THE SZECHWAN PROVINCIAL AND CHENG TU MUNICIPAL CCP COMMITTEES, INVOLVED OVER 100,000 PEOPLE AT SEVERAL SITES, WHILE THE CANTON RALLY, SPONSORED BY CANTON PLA UNITS, INVOLVED "SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND" PEOPLE. THIS COULD MAKE THE CANTON RALLY THE LARGEST OF ITS KIND IN THE CURRENT MOVEMENT. (THE CANTON MILITARY REGION WAS A STRONGHOLD OF LIN'S OLD FOURTH FIELD ARMY, AND THEREFORE MUST BE OF PARTICULAR CONCERN IN PEKING.)

3. THE RALLY IN CHENG TU REPEATED COMMON THEMES IN THE CURRENT ATTACK ON LIN'S MILITARY REPUTATION, WHILE THE CANTON RALLY, AS REPORTED WAS MUCH MORE STRIDENT IN CRITICIZING LIN FOR USING THE ARMY TO SABOTAGE THE PARTY. IN CANTON, LIN WAS HIT FOR DISLOYALTY NOT ONLY DURING THE NORTH-EAST CAMPAIGN, BUT "PARTICULARLY AFTER 1960--- HE WENT SO FAR AS TO CREATE THE COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY PUBLIC OPINION THAT "THE FOUNDER CANNOT COMMAND", ATTEMPTING IN VAIN TO USURP THE POWER OF LEADERSHIP AND COMMAND OF CHAIRMAN MAO AND THE PARTY CENTER OVER OUR ARMY...."

4. KUNG SHIH-CHUAN, A LEADING POLITICAL COMMISSAR IN THE CANTON MILITARY REGION, PRESIDED OVER THE CANTON RALLY. AS KUNG HAD BEEN SEVERELY CRITICIZED FOR BEING ONE OF LIN'S SWORN FOLLOWERS, HIS APPEARANCE SEPTEMBER 7 SEEMINGLY SIGNALS HIS SUCCESSFUL NAVIGATION TO DATE OF THE CAMPAIGN'S TREACHEROUS WATERS.

5. COMMENT. THE SIZE OF THESE RALLIES IS SIGNIFICANT AND INDICATES THE FIRST ATTEMPT IN QUITE A WHILE TO REKINDLE MASS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ENTHUSIASM FOR THE MOVEMENT THE ATTACK ON THOSE WHO CHALLENGE MAO'S AUTHORITY TO COMMAND THE MILITARY IS VERY INTERESTING AND BEARS WATCHING.  
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